

Chicopee Register

COMMUNITY

Keeping alive memories of the fallen

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

CHICOPEE – Inclement weather did not deter Chicopee from honoring its fallen on Memorial Day. Two days after COVID-19 restrictions were lifted, dozens of community members gathered to pay tribute on May 31.

Originally scheduled to occur at the Veterans Memorial Plaza on Front Street, stormy skies forced the ceremony indoors, as American Legion Post 452 on Exchange Street hosted the service.

A procession of speakers discussed the meaning of Memorial Day, but the ceremony’s primary focus was on the ultimate sacrifice made by Master Sgt. Luis DeLeon-Figueroa of Chicopee on Aug. 21, 2019 in Afghanistan.

A contingent of DeLeon-Figueroa’s family members were in attendance, seated at their own table.

Earlier that morning, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau led the family to the War on Terror Memorial in the plaza on Front Street, where DeLeon-Figueroa’s dog tags were placed and an inscription was revealed.

“It’s a roller coaster of emotions. There’s happiness and sadness and everything in



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI
Chicopee Mayor John Vieau speaks with Gold Star family members during a Memorial Day ceremony on Monday morning.

between; all mixed together. It’s nice to share this moment with family,” said Terenz DeLeon, DeLeon-Figueroa’s older sister. “This is great. When they called us and [told us about] doing this event, I never expected half of what

they’re offering.” The service was especially difficult for DeLeon-Figueroa’s grandmother Teresa Bosque, who raised both Luis and Terenz. When asked to describe her grandson, Bosque fought back tears.

“He was silly; he was my baby boy,” said Bosque. “To me, he was very special, and I miss him a lot. What can I say? It hurts not having him here, but I’m very proud of what he

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COMMUNITY

Family reunion brings siblings back home

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

CHICOPEE – Twelve siblings enjoyed a grand reunion on the afternoon of June 1. The LaDuke family, once Chicopee’s largest family, gathered for a photograph on the steps of the building formerly known as St. Patrick’s Church on Broadway Street.

Ranging in age from 82 to 63, nine sisters and three brothers spent Tuesday together, eating lunch at Munich Haus on Center Street before making their way to Broadway Street.

“How many families with 12 kids get together and get along and are happy to see each other? Of all the brothers, sisters, kids, nephews, nieces; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, I’m the oldest of 156,” said 82-year-old Anne Kusek, who still lives in Chicopee.

Several of the siblings ventured to Chicopee from out of town. Billy LaDuke celebrated his birthday on June 1; he traveled from Florida to partake in the festivities.

“This has been on my bucket list, and it took a whole year to get them together. It was definitely worth the wait.



TURLEY PUBLICATION PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI
The LaDuke family, as follows, posed for a photo on the steps of the former St. Patrick’s Church on Broadway Street on Tuesday: [L to R] Bottom row: Janet LaDuke, Sue Taliceo, Mary Pepin and Anne Kusek (oldest), Middle row: Don LaDuke, Bill LaDuke, (birthday boy) Jim LaDuke and Ruth Penniman. Top row: Jean LaDuke (youngest), Lynn LaDuke, Betty Wojcek, and Kathy Fugatt

This is special; there’s 12 of us, and we’re all living. We’re all retired. To me, it’s great,” said Billy LaDuke.

In 1960, the siblings posed together on the same steps of the church on Broadway Street. A reunion that was planned for last year was

interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The wait was worthwhile for the LaDuke brothers and sisters, who fondly remembered their parents Grace and Harold. Lynn LaDuke de-

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COMMUNITY

Honoring our unknown soldiers

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

WASHINGTON D.C. – On Memorial Day, military members and patriots throughout the nation honored fallen American soldiers of many unique backgrounds, each of whom made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedoms.

Recognition of one soldier, whose name will never be known, was woven into many ceremonies that occurred on May 31, explained Brian Willette, Commander of the Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart.

“It was on Memorial Day 1921 that Sgt. Edward Younger, a highly-decorated, twice-wounded veteran of WWI, was selected to pick who would lay in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,” said Willette.

Three years following the conclusion of WWI, the bodies of four fallen U.S. service members were exhumed from cemeteries in France.

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Chicopee to receive nearly \$30 million

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Club celebrates summer

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Florence Savings donates \$40,000

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“Chicopee to receive \$30 million in federal funding from American Recovery Act”

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

CHICOPEE – The city of Chicopee anticipates that it will receive nearly \$30 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill that President Joe Biden signed into law on March 11.

Chicopee Mayor John Vieau announced the funding during a briefing prior to the June 1 meeting of the City Council.

“We want to make sure that we use that money in a prudent, fiscally responsible way that is going to be a positive long term on the rate payers, the tax payers and the residents here in the city of Chicopee,” said Vieau.

A committee will be established to recommend how the funds can best be put to use. At least two elected officials will serve on the committee; Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier, a former banker and auditor, and Councilor-at-Large James Tillitson, who previously expressed his interest in joining.

Several community members will also join the committee, which has not



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Mayor John Vieau addresses residents during a June 2 ceremony in Chicopee Center.

yet been fully established, as the city awaits further federal instruction on how the funding can be spent.

Vieau then pivoted, addressing the state of COVID-19 in Chicopee. Less

than a week after most COVID-19 guidelines were rescinded, the city continues to trend positively.

“There were only four new total cases over the long weekend. To date,

right now, it’s the lowest I’ve seen in a very long time. There’s 39 open active cases of COVID-19 in the city of Chicopee,” said Vieau on June 1.

More than 4,000 Chicopee residents have recovered from COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic, while at least 26 others have succumbed to the novel coronavirus.

“We are trending in the right direction. We finally turned ‘green’ last Thursday from the state metrics,” said Vieau.

In the coming weeks, approximately 700 Chicopee students will begin summer school. Next school year, remote learning will no longer be an option.

“Students will be returning to classrooms and will transition away from remote learning. The city of Chicopee does not plan, at this particular time, to offer a remote learning school in the fall,” said Vieau. “We’re excited about helping with that learning gap that all these students have faced and focused on over the past 15 months and helping them out also with the programs that are planned for this summer.”

Rep. Gonzalez welcomes home National Guard troops



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPTAIN AARON SMITH, MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD

Governor Charlie Baker meets members of the Massachusetts National Guard on Friday, May 14. Photo credit: U.S. Air National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Hanna Smith

SPRINGFIELD – State Rep. Carlos Gonzalez, House Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, sent a letter to Major General Gary Keefe welcoming home the 400 Massachusetts National Guard troops who returned this week from Washington D.C.

The troops were deployed by Gov-

ernor Baker in March for a 10-week long public safety support mission to bolster the security and logistics capabilities of a variety of agencies in our nation’s capital. Chairman Gonzalez thanks these men and women for their service to our country and the Commonwealth during this tumultuous period.

Restaurateur Andy Yee dies



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY

Prominent western Massachusetts restaurateur and businessman Andrew Yee passed on May 27. He is pictured here accepting the Atkinson Award at the 2013 Chicopee Colleen ceremony.

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

CHICOPEE, – One week prior to what would have been his 60th birthday, prominent western Massachusetts restaurateur and businessman Andrew Sua Sun Yee passed away on May 27.

Leading the Bean Restaurant Group, Yee left his mark in Chicopee. He managed the Hu Ke Lau Restaurant, which his family operated on Memorial Drive for 53 years.

His other business endeavors included Johnny’s Bar and Grille, Johnny’s Tavern, Johnny’s Tap Room, and Johnny’s

Roadside Diner along with IYA Sushi & Noodle Kitchen, and the Halfway House Lounge.

He was also instrumental in establishing the South Hadley High School Tigers Den – a culinary program that offers internships and hands-on learning for students.

“Anyone who knew Andy, knew that his laugh was contagious, his personality was bigger than life, and he was always bursting with pride for his family and friends. Our family appreciates your support and privacy during this time,” said the Yee family in a statement released last week.



The Hu Ke Lau Restaurant, managed by Andy Yee, who passed away on May 27, stood in Chicopee for 53 years.

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Club celebrates summer

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

CHICOPEE – The Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee is ready to offer its members a taste of normalcy. The facility on Meadow Street is preparing for a safe and action-packed summer.

“Right now, we are gearing up for our summer program, which will include 60 kids here at the main facility and 15 teens over at the Teen Center,” said Marketing & Development Director Lynn Morrisette.

Typically, the club hosts approximately 100 members each summer, but the capacity will be limited to best assure the safety of all who participate. Masks will still be required inside of the facility for the foreseeable future, but that won’t dampen the fun.

“It’s a wonderful feeling to be able to offer [the summer program] to families who want to have their kids out with other kids in the community, enjoying the summer and having some fun with friends while staying safe,” said Morrisette.

Friendship and camaraderie are inte-



An increased number of members will enter the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee this summer.

gral to the club’s daily operations. Physical separation, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, made the past 15 months especially difficult, but the state’s lessening of restrictions will allow more members to reengage in the activities that they’ve come to love.

Late last month, Fitness & Sports Recreation Coordinator Kenneth Lockett organized a game of flag football, and the facility’s playground, which was redesigned and modernized in 2018, is drawing more and more visitors.

For the staff members who work at the facility, the arrival of summer is much-awaited.

“It’s just as important for the staff to get back to a sense of normalcy as it is for the kids,” said Morrisette. “It’s great to have a normal schedule and be able to come in every day. Remote is a wonderful opportunity, but it’s just not the same feeling as being in the building with your coworkers and with the kids on a daily basis, having those interactions.”

Inside of the club, a six-foot social distancing policy remains in effect, and emphasis continues to be placed on hand-sanitizing and washing. A cleaning crew visits the facility each night, disinfecting common areas and restrooms.

The club will continue to enforce many of its sanitization practices indefinitely.

“I do believe moving forward, as restrictions are eased up, a lot of these practices that we’ve been accustomed to will stay in place because it’s important to wash your hands and use hand sanitizer throughout the day just to stay away from the common cold,” said Morrisette.

On June 4, the club coordinated the



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

The Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee will welcome back 75 children and teens to its facilities on Meadow Street this summer.

Great Futures Golf Classic at the Chicopee Country Club on Burnett Road. After a year’s hiatus, the event returned to ample fanfare.

“That is a big fundraiser for the club,” said Morrisette. “We were able to sell out for the tournament this year, which is a great feeling to be able to have an event for people and raise money for the club. Fundraising is always a challenge and has been especially hard over the past 15 months.”

On Nov. 12, the club will go forward with its annual gala at the Log Cabin in Holyoke. Such events are critical to the club’s sustained success.

“Fundraising helps with programs such as our nutrition program, STEM, physical fitness, arts and crafts and all of those extra activities that we’re able to provide before and after school. That is

what a lot of the money is used for, and to keep up with day-to-day operations,” said Morrisette.

In the coming months, the club’s focus will be on providing a comfortable summer experience for its members.

Communication with parents and families has been prioritized throughout the pandemic, as will continue to be the case.

Morrisette has been highly encouraged by her daily interactions with members. An aura of positivity is clear and present.

“The way that [members] handled all of the situations and have adapted and pivoted is definitely appreciated. They’re so happy to be with friends here in the building, and we’ve definitely noticed. It’s such a great feeling,” said Morrisette.

Hurricane season begins

FRAMINGHAM – June 1 marks the official start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season, which runs through November 30.

While most hurricanes and tropical storms that have hit New England occurred during August and September, residents are encouraged to take time now to begin preparing before a storm. Throughout hurricane season, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency will share preparedness information to help residents be aware of, and prepare for, the impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts another active, above-normal, Atlantic hurricane season. While NOAA is not expecting the historic activity seen last year, it only takes one storm to make landfall and severely affect an area.

The beginning of hurricane season is a timely reminder for all residents to prepare for the effects of a hurricane by learning if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone, developing an emergency plan, building an emergency kit and staying informed before, during, and after the storm.

Hurricanes and tropical storms can have an impact on the entire Commonwealth, not just coastal communities. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene, which produced severe flooding damage in communities throughout Central and Western Massachusetts in 2011.

Know Your Evacuation Zone

Massachusetts has designated hurricane evacuation zones, designated as Zone A, Zone B, and Zone C, for areas of the state at risk for storm surge flooding associated with tropical storms or hurricanes. If evacuations are necessary because of a tropical storm or hurricane, local or state officials will notify people living, working, or vacationing in evacuation zones to leave the area. Even areas not directly

along a coastline may be at risk for storm surge flooding during a tropical storm or hurricane.

Make an Emergency Plan

Develop a plan with your family members of what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in a tropical storm or hurricane. An emergency plan should include:

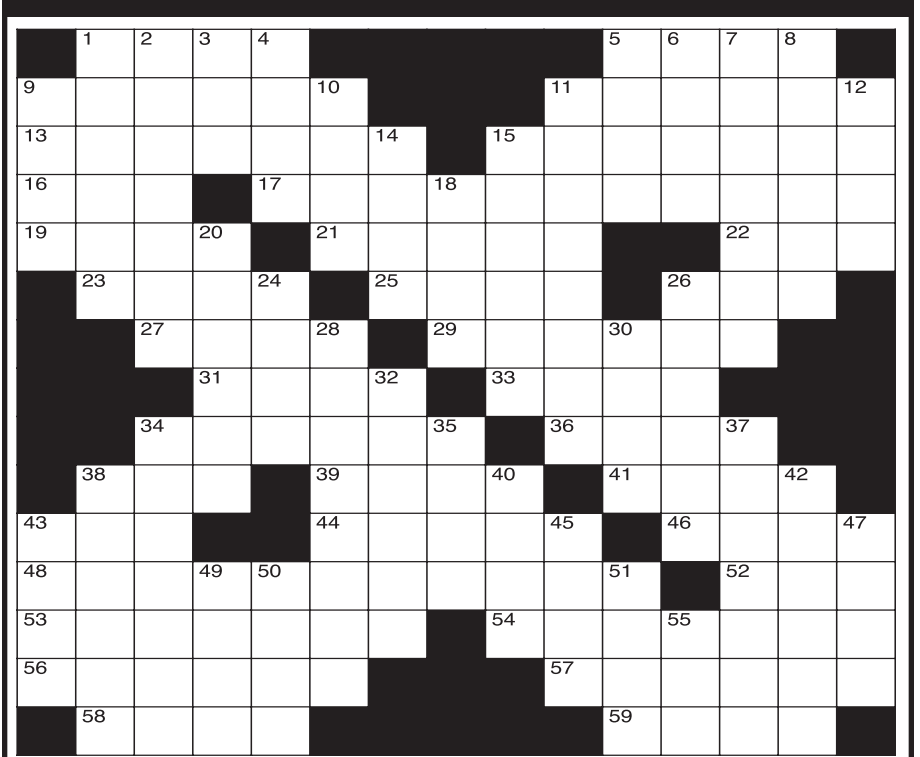
- Meeting Locations
- Emergency Contact Information
- Evacuation Plans
- Shelter-in-Place Plan
- Considerations for Family Members with Access and Functional Needs, and Pets

Build an Emergency Kit

Build an emergency kit containing items that will sustain you and your family if you are isolated for three to five days without power or unable to go to a store. Emergency kits are essential during hurricane season due to potential extended power outages, flooding, and impassable debris-covered roads. Every emergency kit should include bottled water, food, a flashlight, a radio and extra batteries, a first aid kit and personal & hygiene items. Depending on your family’s needs, emergency kits should also include medications, spare eyeglasses, medical equipment and supplies, and children’s items such as diapers and formula. Food and supplies for pets and service animals should also be part of your kit.

Stay Informed

Receiving warnings, timely emergency alerts, and information from public officials is critical to staying safe during a tropical storm or hurricane. Every family should have multiple methods for receiving emergency alerts. Learn more about different types of alerting and information tools, including the Emergency Alert System, Wireless Emergency Alerts, NOAA Weather Radio, social & traditional media, 2-1-1 Hotline, local notification systems, and more.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Partner to “flows”
- 5. French industrial city
- 9. Diagrams
- 11. Diplomat
- 13. Hires
- 15. Hawaiian island
- 16. Set aflame
- 17. Very happy
- 19. Blue dye
- 21. Small terrier with short legs
- 22. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
- 23. Northern pike genus
- 25. Expression of annoyance
- 26. Female deer
- 27. Casella and Kellerman are two
- 29. Actor’s lines to audience
- 31. Days (Spanish)
- 33. Close a person’s eyes
- 34. Cloaked
- 36. Comedic actor Rogen
- 38. It’s all around us
- 39. Neutralizes alkalis
- 41. Native people of New Mexico
- 43. No seats available
- 44. Famed “Air Music” composer
- 46. Fit of irritation
- 48. Psychic phenomena
- 52. Knicks’ first-rounder Toppin
- 53. Seed used in cooking
- 54. “WandaVision” actress Hahn
- 56. Samples food
- 57. In a lucid way
- 58. Stair part

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of moth
- 2. A Christian sacrament
- 3. It lends books to Bostonians (abbr.)
- 4. Turn away
- 5. Impersonal
- 6. Shortly
- 7. Indigenous Alaskans
- 8. Subtle difference of meaning
- 9. Sicilian city
- 10. Put in harmony
- 11. Administrative divisions
- 12. As happily
- 14. Horse mackerel
- 15. Muddy or boggy ground
- 18. Monetary unit of Italy
- 20. Construction site machine
- 24. 22
- 26. Tracts at the mouths of rivers
- 28. Earnings
- 30. Insect repellent
- 32. Runner-up
- 34. Musician
- 35. Serious or urgent
- 37. Esteemed one
- 38. Where rockers play
- 40. Work furniture
- 42. Greek prophetesses
- 43. Quantitative fact
- 45. Missing soldiers
- 47. Minute
- 49. This (Spanish)
- 50. Maintain possession of
- 51. Assault with a knife
- 55. Holiday text message greeting

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11

GUEST COLUMN

Turning Your Life Around

By Bryan Golden

never too late to change direction. Regardless of past mistakes, you can decide today to take a different path. Here are some suggestions to help you.

The first step is to understand why you are where you are and what went wrong. You can't turn your life around until you take responsibility for your actions. If you blame other people or circumstances, you inhibit your ability to make changes.

Next, identify exactly what actions you took, or decisions you made, that led to your current situation. It may not be obvious at first, but there is always a cause and effect. It may be hard to face what you have done, but it's essential before you can turn things around.

What challenges do you have to overcome in order to turn things around? Some examples are education, time, money, bad habits, relationships, and attitude. Having this understanding allows you to begin to develop an action plan.

Identify negative self-talk. What you say to yourself programs your mind for either success or failure. In order to turn your life around, you have to believe you can and tell yourself you can. Many people have become so used to negative self-talk that they accept it as normal. Telling yourself that you can't do something prevents you from accomplishing it.

Identify automatic negative behavior patterns. For example, do you avoid making major decisions? Do you make impulsive decisions? Are you prone to doing things you know are wrong? These behaviors must be corrected.

Look for sabotaging behavior patterns. Are you doing anything that either sabotages your success or attracts failure? Some examples might be the type of people you associate with, abrasive personality traits, spending money beyond your means, repelling people who can help you, alienating those who are a good influence, or engaging in needlessly risky behavior that has no benefit.

Find and use a proven plan. Whatever mistakes you have made, you are not the first. There are many others before you who have travelled the same path. There are also numerous examples of how these people managed to turn their lives around. Look for these success stories and study the approach they used. There's no need for you to reinvent the wheel. It's a lot more efficient to utilize the same plan that has been proven to work for others than to figure everything out on your own.

Reevaluate your needs and expectations. You change over time. You change as a result of your experiences. You don't want to make decisions based on outdated needs and expectations. Your goals have to fit you where you are today. Fulfilling a goal which is externally imposed, rather than emanating from your own desires, rarely leads to satisfaction, if it is attained at all.

Part of this process involves distinguishing needs from wants. People get into trouble, especially financially, when they don't accurately separate the two. Anything you can get along without is a want. Be honest in this assessment. Don't use what others have acquired as a gauge; you are not in a competition.

Copy successful people who are where you want to be. Whatever your goals may be, there are others who have already attained them. How did they do it? What approach did they take? You will avoid a lot of mistakes by emulating their successful behavior. Learning from their mistakes is much more efficient than learning from your own.

These steps will help you turn your life around. While you can't undo or change the past, you can take steps to get onto as positive a path as possible. You are never too old, and it's never too late to start turning your life around.

GUEST COLUMN

Early June spotlights specimen perennials

The crazy heat we had for nearly two weeks straight pushed a lot of June perennials ahead. Then, the cold rain came and has them in a holding pattern. As I write, my peonies are budded up and I am crossing my fingers that they will bloom for my early June birthday. Read on to learn about peonies and two other plants known as specimen perennials.

The word "specimen" has its own definition in horticultural terms. Specimen plants are special, prized for their ability to stand alone in a border or foundation planting. They don't need to be planted in a group of similar or differing plants to look their best. Simply put, one is enough! These types of plants are also known to be extremely hardy and long-lived. Nineteenth century gardeners must have certainly been aware of these attributes. The patterned beds in the Salem Towne garden at Old Sturbridge Village highlight three specimen perennials that bloom in June: Gas plant, baptisia and peony.

Gas plant (*Dictamnus albus*) is probably the least known of the three. Stems are deep green and stiff, and even at close to three feet do not require staking. White flowers are borne on terminal spikes and are unique in that two of their five petals bend down to show-off stamens that curve skyward. The common name for this plant comes from the volatile oil that is given off by the flowers and in its seed pods, and can theoretically be ignited on a calm evening. In fact, William Prince's catalog of 1831 notes that "this plant exhales inflammable gas!" I have also learned first hand that the seed pod causes "photodermatitis." Exercise caution when working close to this plant or you too may end up with a star shaped burn on your skin!

Gas plant is tough to propagate. It is rarely successful when divided, and seeds need to be stratified before being sown. Then they may take a good year or more to germinate and another couple of years for the plants to get to size.

Baptisia (*B. australis*), commonly known as false indigo, is another specimen that shines in June. The plant is reminiscent of lupine and suggests a family relation to other legumes. Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes that emerge in mid-month. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, one plant is certainly enough per grouping. The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually tiny and take a couple of seasons to establish. Site false indigo in full sun or partial shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised. Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look

nice in autumn decorations.

My favorite specimen of all is saved for discussion last: the peony. Perhaps I am biased because I grew up with a division of my Babci's (Grandmother's) plant in my childhood garden. Frilly and bubblegum pink, this flower was always cut and put in a vase just in time for my birthday! The variety we had was likely 'Monsieur Jules Elie' introduced in 1888, and available in nearby New York in 1917. 'Festiva Maxima' is the white splashed red flowered variety grown at the Towne garden as well as in my home landscape these days, alongside a division of Babci's plant.

Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day for your peony. If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers. An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will promote good flowers.

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless staking makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished. Middle weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively. Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural.

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis. Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground. Haul them off to the trash, don't compost. If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry. Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well.

Plant specimen perennials in your landscape for years of enjoyment.

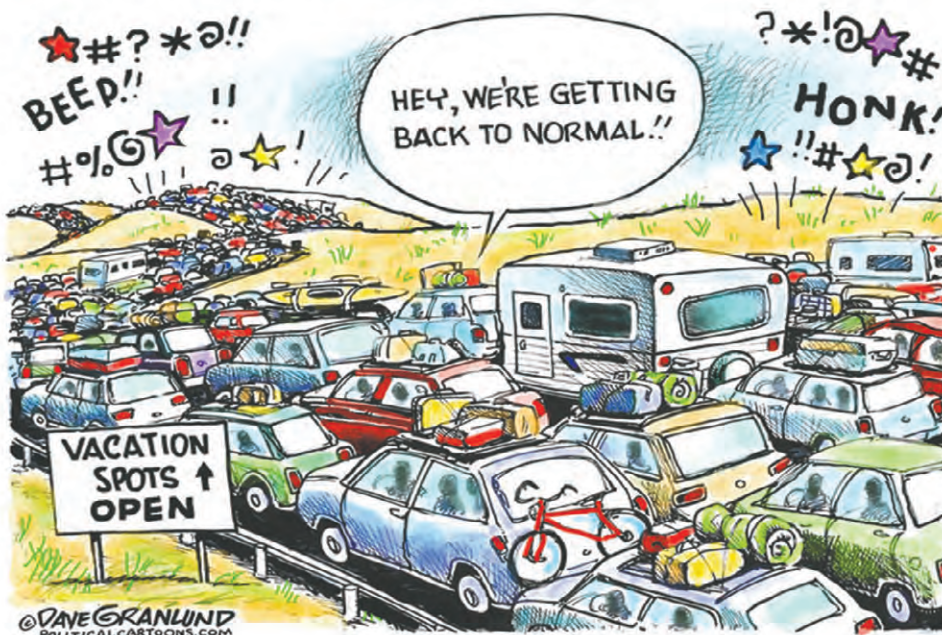
Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

AMERICA OPENS UP



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The *Chicopee Register* welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our "People News," is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to chicopeeregister@turley.com or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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Straw Dog Writers Guild plans June events; all virtual and free

NORTHAMPTON – The Straw Dog Writers Guild will hold several online events in June. All events are free and open to the public. Following are the events and information on how to register.

June 1, Writers’ Night (Out) In, 7 p.m., Open Mic with Featured Reader Shanta Lee Gander

Shanta Lee Gander’s work has been featured in many publications. Her debut book of poetry, “GHETTOCLAUSTROPHOBIA: Dreamin of Mama While Trying to Speak in Woke Tongues,” was named the Diode Editions full-length book contest winner for poetry. Shanta gives lectures on the life of Lucy Terry Prince and is the 2020 recipient of the Arthur Williams Award for Meritorious Service to the Arts.

Go to strawdogwriters.org to register. Ten names will be selected at random to read prior to the featured reader. Each reader will have five minutes.

June 6, 2-4 p.m., Writers Read/Hilltowns Open Mic with Featured Reader Howie Faerstein

Howie Faerstein, who lives in Florence, Mass., is the author of two chapbooks and two full-length poetry collections. He has been published in several literary journals and is a five-time Pushcart prize nominee. He volunteers at the Center for New Americans and is co-editor of CutThroat, A Journal of the Arts.

To attend, email Jane Roy Brown for a link to the event: brownjaneroy@gmail.com.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY STRAW DOG WRITERS GUILD
Howie Faerstein, an author of numerous publications, will lead a program for the Straw Dog Writers Guild on June 6.

June 10, 6 p.m., The Poetry Ritual

On the three-year anniversary of the Poetry Critique Meet-up, co-sponsored by Straw Dog Writers Guild and the Northampton Center for the Arts, 20 poets who have participated in the meet-ups this past year will give short readings. For the Zoom link: poetryritual2021@gmail.com.

June 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Workshop: An Exploration of Flash Fiction and Flash Memoir with Joy Baglio

Flash takes everything about compelling short stories – the complexity, nuance, characters, emotion, tension, stakes – and delivers it in an impossibly short high-wire act that leaves readers deeply



Joy Baglio, a fiction writer, editor, and founder of Pioneer Valley Writers’ Workshop, will lead a program for the Straw Dog Writers Guild on June 16.

affected. This workshop will cover how to write, craft, and edit stories into these sparkling fictional or memoiristic gems. Writers will gain a better understanding of the flash form and will leave with the beginnings of two new pieces.

Joy Baglio is a fiction writer, editor, and founder of Pioneer Valley Writers’ Workshop (www.pioneervalleysociety.org). Her short stories have appeared in American Short Fiction, Tin House, The Iowa Review and elsewhere. She has received fellowships and awards from Yaddo, Bread Loaf, the Vermont Studio Center, and Ploughshares. She holds an M.F.A. from The New School and lives in Florence, Mass.



Poet Shanta Lee Gander will lead a presentation for the Straw Dog Writers Guild on June 1.

Go to strawdogwriters.org to register.
June 19, 6 p.m., Black Writers Read: Juneteenth Edition

Members of Valley Society will come together to reflect on 365 days after the event that sparked the series, Black Writers Read. Watch live at www.facebook.com/valleysociety413 or via YouTube: Nicole M. Young’s channel.

The Straw Dog Writers Guild, based in Northampton, Mass., is dedicated to the craft and transformative power of writing. Since 2010, it has served writers throughout the region through craft workshops, open mics, networking, writing residencies, scholarships and more. For more information, www.strawdogwriters.org.

Holy Mother of the Rosary Tag Sale June 11 and 12

CHICOPEE - Holy Mother of the Rosary Church will hold a Tag Sale on Fri., June 11th and Sat., June 12th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain or shine, it will be held in the hall at 26 Bell St. Chicopee - across from the

Chicopee Public Library. We have loads of items - jewelry, clothing, shoes, dishes, glassware, books, CD’s, toys, tools, household items and much more! We have something for everyone. Please wear a mask.

Baystate Health announces changes to visitor policy

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health, which opened its inpatient units and emergency departments to visitation at all Baystate hospitals on May 3, announced on June 2 that it has extended visitation to include all of its Baystate Medical Practices and outpatient services such as imaging, radiology and lab.

Beginning today, all Baystate Medical Practices and outpatient services throughout the health system will allow for: 1 visitor to accompany patient.

“For example, that means a support person may now accompany pregnant patients to theirultrasound appointment to learn about their baby together,” said Nancy Rines, MSN, RN, NE-BC, director, Women’s Services and Baystate Children’s Hospital.

For more information on obstetrics (OB) guidelines, visit baystatehealth.org/patients/visiting.

The changes reflect a decrease of COVID-19 cases in the community and the increasing number of people who are now vaccinated against the virus.

Red (persistently), yellow (high risk), green (moderate risk) and gray (low risk) threat tiers (also called zones) still remain for visitation based on the CDC, DPH and state guidelines, but the policy details within the tiers will change. The tiers – also referred to as zones – are based on the number of COVID-19 positive patients in a city or town and how preva-

lent the virus is.

All Baystate Hospitals, Baystate Medical Practices and outpatient services are now in the green tier - including Baystate Medical Center and Baystate Children’s Hospital in Springfield, Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield, and Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer. As previously announced on May 3, they allow for:

- 1 visitor at a time for patients who are not in the ICU
- 2 visitors at a time for patients in the ICU
- 2 parents or guardians at a time for pediatric patients.

Hospital visiting hours are from noon to 8 p.m.

All visitors must adhere to Baystate Health infection control practices that are in effect throughout the health system: wearing facemasks, frequent handwashing, maintain physical/social distance of 6 feet as possible, and no shared food sources.

Baystate Health will continue to review the county data and CDC/DPH/State guidelines weekly to determine which tier each county will be in. To stay up to date and see exceptions for each tier, go to baystatehealth.org/patients/visiting.



SENIORS

RiverMills Center Transportation Services

CHICOPEE – June 1, 2021 – The Chicopee Council on Aging’s Transportation Department is doing emergency rides to supermarkets, pharmacies and doctor’s appointment during COVID-19, for Chicopee seniors 60 and older.

Transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM till 2:00 PM, for Chicopee’s older adults. For reservations, please call 413-536-5733.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chicopee COA follows all CDC Safety Standards and adheres to all mandates from the City and State of Massachusetts.

A \$10,000 grant from WestMass ElderCare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings.

For more information, please contact Lisa Padykula of the COA at 413-536-5733 or lpadykula@chicopeema.gov.

Hampden DA’s Clergy Sexual Abuse Hotline (413) 800-2958

SPRINGFIELD – In early 2019, Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni established an anonymous clergy abuse hotline for anyone wishing to report abuse. Survivors of clergy abuse, or any survivor of sex abuse, are encouraged to call. No matter the age of the complaint or whether it was previously reported, any victim of clergy sexual abuse is able to, and should, contact law enforcement directly.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni stated, “We understand the strength that is required for victims

to come forward and speak to their past suffering, but these allegations should be reviewed by law enforcement, no matter their age or status. We want to hear from you and we want to help.”

Since the hotline’s launch, detectives from the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit have been responding to allegations and speaking with victims. If a victim of clergy sexual abuse wishes to make a report, please contact the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden District Attorney’s Office: (413) 800-2958.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Chicopee Register, please email chicopeeregister@turley.com.

CEA commends staff, students, families

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Educators Association is celebrating the end of a most unique academic year. Through trials and tribulations, Chicopee's educators stood tall, as did thousands of students and their families.

Consisting of more than 1,000 members, the CEA includes all Chicopee Public Schools employees with the exception of principals, custodians, food workers and nurses. During the most unpredictable school year on record, members from all units stood tall in the face of adversity.

"Everyone really went above and beyond. It was a beautiful thing, and they did it 100 percent for their love of the students and their love of helping those students to learn. Whatever was nec-

essary was done," said CEA President Laura Demakis.

Many Chicopee educators were required to teach students in person and remotely at the same time, a challenge that motivated them to refine their technological prowess, said Demakis.

Fortunately, tech-savvy students were there to lend a hand when needed.

"I'm not sure the community realizes how much of a collaboration it was this year for boots on the ground. It was so awesome the way the kids would help us non-tech people figure things out. It really was a collaboration with students sometimes, and that was really cool," said Demakis.

Many CEA members observed higher attendance during the 2020-2021 school year than in years past.

Parents and caretakers assumed additional responsibilities, monitoring their

children while remote learning was in full session.

"The CEA would like to thank the parents and the students for just working with us and communicating with us. The parents and caretakers wore multiple hats for a long time and also had to change on a dime. Everyone was on a different level as far as their anxiety goes or what they had going on at home; God bless these parents and the students," said Demakis, adding that she looks forward to beginning a "regular" year in the fall.

Struggling to decipher inconsistent guidance given out by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education, staff members bonded amid the confusion. Experiencing uncertainty strengthened ties between many of Chicopee's educators.

"Sometimes, we didn't know from day to day what we were doing or what

was the expectation or what kids we might see or not see. There were a lot of moving parts to this year, and people just focused on the kids," said Demakis. "Everyone found a side of themselves or a strength that they didn't know existed. Everyone found a creativity in themselves they didn't know existed."

More than ever, the CEA realizes the importance of collaboration and sound communication. Moving forward, Demakis is confident that her members will continue to build momentum, to the benefit of the city's students.

"Probably, every building functioned a little bit differently because their particularities were so defined this year, but that's what was beautiful. I think the staff grew, and if they didn't, then their growing pains were revealed and, hopefully, they'll grow from here on out," she said.

MEMORIAL DAY from page 1

did for this country."

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented Chicopee from recognizing Memorial Day in its traditional capacity. This year's ceremony reminded the public how significant the day is in a city that reveres its military men and women.

Richard Neal, a U.S. Rep. for the First Congressional District of Massachusetts, commended Chicopee for its commitment to the military.

"If there was one city in America that I knew would get it right on this day, it's Chicopee. The honor that military service has meant to this community for as long as I can recall... There was a time when I started out where you could find either a VFW or an American Legion on virtually every corner across Chicopee," said Neal.

In Chicopee alone, approximately 5,500 military and civilian personnel call

Westover Air Reserve Base home. Chicopee residents have fought in all every major military conflict in the history of the United States, dating back to the Revolutionary War.

State Rep. Joseph Wagner, representing the 8th Hampden District, acknowledged Chicopee's tradition of service, as he spoke on May 31, complimenting Veterans Memorial Plaza.

"Chicopee has done a tremendous job when you go to that plaza; memorials for every conflict in our country's history. Chicopee honors the memory of people who gave the ultimate in service to their country on the day of remembrance. That separates us out a little bit. I'm proud of that," said Wagner.

During Monday morning's ceremony, the Charles H. Tracy Veteran of the Year Award was issued to 2020 recipient William Kmelius and 2021 recipient James Healey. Both men exemplify the spirit of Chicopee.



City employees and veterans prepare a meal for those in attendance at the Gold Star lunch on May 31 at American Legion Post 452.



Chicopee Director of Veterans Services salutes in honor of military members who have lost their lives in the War on Terror.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

Chicopee Director of Veterans Services Stephanie Shaw leads Terenz DeLeon and Teresa Bosque, family members of fallen Chicopee soldier Master Sgt. Luis DeLeon-Figueroa, to a wreath honoring his sacrifice on Memorial Day.



Chicopee Mayor John Vieau and a local veteran console Terenz DeLeon and Teresa Bosque, family members of fallen Chicopee soldier Master Sgt. Luis DeLeon-Figueroa.



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Sports

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Chicopee picks up sweep of Granby

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—The Granby boys lacrosse team were shutout by Chicopee, 22-0, in the season opening match on May 7.

First-year Rams head coach Brady Seymour was hoping that the second meeting of the regular season between the two Suburban League rivals would be a closer match.

While the middle two quarters were evenly played, the Pacers dominated the other two quarters and swept the season series with a 13-1 road victory, last Tuesday afternoon, May 25.

“Chicopee is a very good team,” Seymour said. “I thought we played much better against them in today’s game than we did in the season opener. We’re just looking to keep improving in each game.”

Seymour, who played lacrosse at Chicopee Comp, coached several of the Chicopee lacrosse players at the youth level. He’s hoping it turns into a friendly rivalry match between the two teams during the next couple of years.

“I did coach six or seven of the Chicopee players at the youth level,” Seymour said. “They’re



Dominik Rodrigo sprints toward the Granby goal.

a much better team than we are right now. We have a couple of players that have never played lacrosse before.”

Granby has made several changes since the first game of the season at Chicopee High School.

Senior Nick Parker, who’s

going to play college football at the University of Rochester in the fall, started his third game in goal for the Rams. Parker, who had been a starting defender, replaced freshman Connor McDonnell, who started at attack against Chicopee.

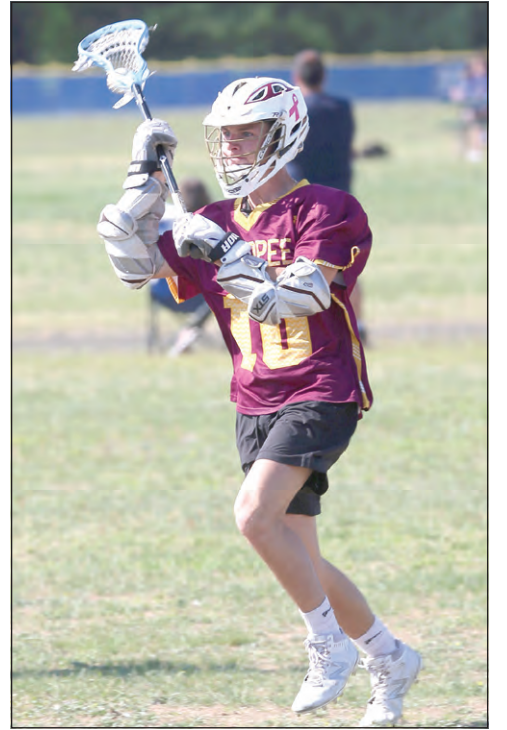
“One day at practice, Con-



Jan Michael Torres possesses the ball, looking to get around a Granby defender.

nor did a very good job using a short pole and I decided to try him at attack,” said Seymour. “Nick was a defender and I asked him if he wanted to be our goalie. He’s been playing well at that position the past couple of games.”

Parker made a total of 21



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Nathan Roberts makes a quick pass.

saves in the home match against Chicopee.

Seymour was also pleased with the performance of junior midfielder Michael Arabik.

“Even though we’ve been struggling, all of my players are

See **LACROSSE** page 8

Mutiny pick up first win



LUDLOW – On May 22, the Mutiny won its first game of the season with the help of a lot of offense. The Mutiny defeated Connecticut Rush 6-1. Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, and Lily Fabian, of Monson, had goals. Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, provided an assist in the win.

Hope Santaniello, of Agawam, looks to deke around an opponent.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Lily Fabian, of Monson, goes for the header.



Lauren Berman, of South Hadley, possesses the ball.



Charlotte Maurer passes the ball away.



Jessica Mazo attempts a shot on goal.

Quabbin league action

SOUTH HADLEY – The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League has gotten underway with the season beginning in early May. The league was shut down for the 2020 season due to the pandemic. Last Sunday, one of the games saw the Cardinals defeating the Braves 18-3. The league features six teams playing Sunday morning games each week.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
The Braves’ Dave Warner makes a throw to first.



Cardinals pitcher Gary Paradise delivers a pitch.



Anthony Maspo fields a grounder.

OBITUARIES

Anna C. Bean, 80

CHICOPEE – The family of the late Anna C. Bean invites family and friends to Fairview Cemetery, 269 Moore St. Chicopee, Friday June 4, 2021 at 11:30 a.m., in celebration of Anna’s benevolent life.

Anna was born on June 4, 1931 and left us on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020 at age 89.

Her dynamic presence and influential personality will be greatly missed.

Much gratitude to all the caring and compassionate staff at Holyoke Healthcare Center & New England Hospice. Anna spent her last days here, where she was treated with great care, especially throughout this pandemic.

Anna was born in Concord, NH to the late Earl and Marguerite (Christian) Cofran.

She graduated from Pembroke High School in New Hampshire in 1949 and on



June 16, 1949, married the love of her life, Raymond L. Bean Sr. (predeceased March 15, 2014). They almost made it 65 years of marriage. They came to Massachusetts and started a family. Anna was very active in her children’s lives, school and was a Girl Scout leader, earning the Mother of the Year award.

Anna belonged to NAFA family camping association, held different positions in office as a volunteer and retired from Chicopee Public Schools as a Teacher’s Aide after 15 years of service.

Anna loved spending time with her family and friends, shopping, camping, traveling, going on cruises, going to Europe, and taking on new adventures, even going cross country by car several times. She spent much time in Florida as a snow bird for over 20 years in her retirement, enjoying it with family and friends.

Let’s not forget her love of Bingo & casinos trips that made for fun times also. She enjoyed summers on the East Coast, especially at the ocean. She had a long enjoyable life.

She was predeceased by her siblings Robert Cofran, and Edna, her second son Randel on Dec. 25, 2005 and her granddaughter Anarae Zebryk Aug. 10, 2018. She is survived by her loving children Raymond JR. and his wife Debra of South Hadley, Roxanne Bean of Chicopee, Anita Zebryk, and her husband Jay of Southbridge, Alane Renaud and her husband Robert of Springfield and her daughter-in law Pamela Bean of Chicopee.

She is survived by her loving grandchildren of 12 and four great-grandchildren, Alexandria, Jayden, Brynn, and Bray, whom she enjoyed immensely.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to New England Hospice, 190 Old Derby St, Suite 304, Hingham, MA, 02043.

Max F. Rutkowski, 88

CHICOPEE - With heavy hearts, we announce the death of Max F. Rutkowski of Chicopee, MA, who passed away on May 12, 2021 at the age of 88.

He was loved and cherished by many people, including his parents, Chester and Mary Rutkowski (Wozniak), his wife Jane C. Rutkowski (Stefanik), his children, Michael S. Rutkowski (Holly) of Holland, Donna Rutkowski (Jody LaPierre) of Chicopee and Lynn C. Chicoine of Monson and his grandchildren, Rebecca Irwin, Luke Rutkowski (Jessica), Kyle Rutkowski, Pam and Toby Rutkowski (Jackie). He was also cherished by great- grandchildren.



PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A
Notice is hereby given by **Interstate Towing, Inc.** pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on **June 11, 2021** at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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VIN: 4S3BG6852V7624565
JONATHAN ARES
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WESTFIELD, MA 01085

2004 CHEVROLET EXPRESS G2500
VIN: 1GCGG25V141186061
GARY GIVEN
5237 DURHAM RD
GUILFORD, CT 06437

2004 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN: 2T1KR32E84C207790
CHARLES GANITT
252 PEARL HARBOR AVE
BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

2006 NISSAN SENTRA
VIN: 3N1CB51D56L607905
ALYSSA VALASQUEZ
50 WESTFORD DR
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01109

2007 FORD EDGE
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SARA BISCALDI
115 GRANVILLE RD
SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

2010 HYUNDAI ACCENT
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ALEX GAGNON
725 CHICOPEE ST
CHICOPEE, MA 01013

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05/28, 06/04, 06/11/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD21P0969PM
In the matter of: Allen G Leca now Of: Wilbraham, MA formerly Of: Chicopee, MA RESPONDENT (Person to be Protected/Minor) CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATOR OR OTHER PROTECTIVE ORDER PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Shirley A Leca in the above captioned matter alleging that **Allen G Leca** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Shirley A Leca** of Chicopee, MA (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed Conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 06/28/2021.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return

date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person’s right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 24 2021
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/04/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21P0980EA
Estate of: James Marshall Santy Also known as: James M Santy Date of Death: 04/19/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Elaine P Maggi** of Springfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal

Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Elaine P Maggi** of Springfield, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration.**
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/22/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal

Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 25, 2021
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/04/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD21P0981EA
Estate of: Mitzie John Sypek Also known as: Mieczyslaw J. Sypek Date of Death: 03/23/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Mitchell J Sypek** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Mitchell J Sypek** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/23/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 25, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/04/2021

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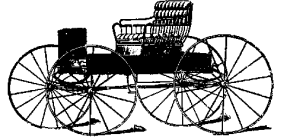
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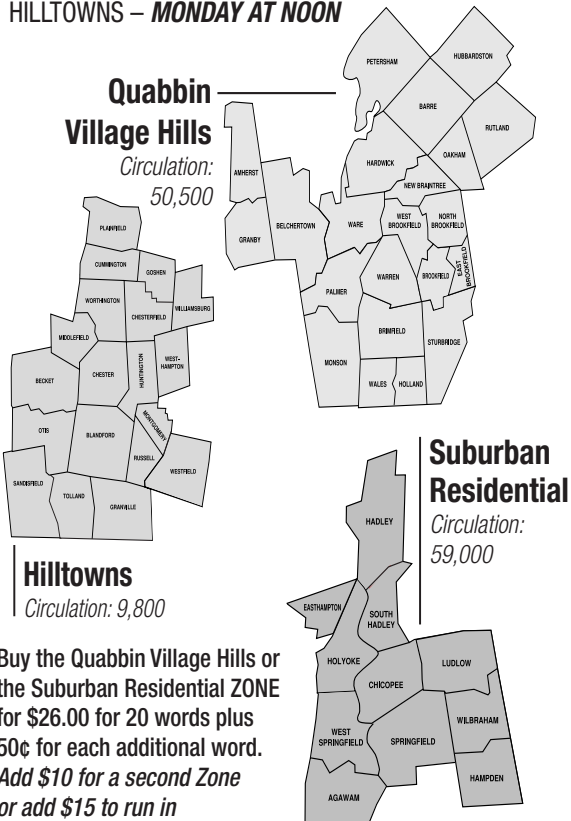
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CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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Florence Bank reiterates pledge to support food Insecurity in the valley

FLORENCE—Since the start of the new year, Florence Bank has donated \$40,000 to organizations in the region that battle food insecurity. Since the pandemic began, the bank has donated \$140,000.

As restrictions are starting to lift, President and CEO Kevin R. Day also reiterated the bank's commitment to the cause, saying a return to pre-pandemic economics in the region is likely not imminent.

"People have been impacted significantly. Their jobs haven't returned. They're not making ends meet, and they need food," Day said. "There's still a need. We're here to support the needs, and they're continuing."

Day said the consideration of gifts to support food insecurity is an ongoing item on the

Florence Bank Board of Director's meeting agenda.

John Ebbets, chair of the 11-member board and a member for nearly a decade, said the bank aptly prioritized supporting access to food as a basic human need.

"There was no hesitation whatsoever," said Ebbets. "Florence Bank has consistently been a major player in supporting the community. It has always been incredibly supportive."

As the former executive director of United Way of Hampshire County from 2015 to 2019, Ebbets knows about community need, and he said he feels grateful to be able to sit on the bank board and indirectly provide assistance. "It feels good," he said.

Day said Florence Bank began responding to the problem

of hunger soon after COVID-19 forced closures and caused wide-scale job loss. "We said, 'We need to be here and help these nonprofits get food out,'" he said.

In 2020, the bank donated nearly \$100,000 to the Community Food Distribution Project, Grow Food Northampton, the Northampton Survival Center, and Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry in Chicopee.

"There was an outpouring of need," Day said. "The shut-downs hit every city and town. We made an effort to ensure our assistance covered the breadth of our whole service area, with gifts to date made in Hampden and Hampshire counties."

Ebbets said the board is also looking ahead. "Not everybody will emerge from the pandemic at the same time. The projection



John Ebbets, Chair of Florence Bank's Board of Directors, is experienced in fighting food insecurity.

was that there could be continued significant need. Food insecurity does not go away," he said. "It's a continuing cycle and a continuing challenge."

A Florence Bank branch is located in Chicopee at 705 Memorial Dr.

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